

**MINUTES**  
*of the*  
**SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DATE:** January 6, 2004 (Quarterly Evening Meeting at 6:30p.m.)

**PLACE:** 550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair, John Britton, Directors Brian Fahnestock, Lee Moldaver, Olivia Rodriguez and Interim General Manager Sherrie Fisher

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Julie Guzman (City of Santa Barbara) Joshua Molina (Santa Barbara News Press) Bob Westwick (Easy Lift) Jerry Estrada, Lynnette Coverly, David Damiano and Barbra Nelson (MTD).

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair John Britton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call of the Board of Directors**

Chair Britton noted that all Board members were present except David Davis who is absent due to illness.

**3. Report Regarding Posting of Agenda**

The MTD Board Clerk Barbra Nelson reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters and on the MTD Website last week and mailed to media of general circulation.

**4. Approval of Prior Minutes**

Director Olivia Rodriguez moved to waive the reading of, and approve the minutes of December 18<sup>th</sup> and 31st, 2003. Director Lee Moldaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**5. Cash Report**

Director Moldaver asked if the Finance Committee had met and reviewed the Cash Report. Director Fahnestock said that the committee had not discussed it, but he had looked it over and would recommend approval. Chair Britton noted that there was a significant fee for the underground storage tanks in Goleta on the cash report, but that fee has to be paid. General Manager Sherrie Fisher reported that the fee is owed and there is no choice but to pay it, but that after the fee is paid, MTD will become eligible for reimbursement for cleanup of the Goleta site. Director Moldaver moved to accept the Cash Report and Director Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**6. Public Comment**

Cindy Nicholson, MTD bus driver on worker's compensation, voiced her objection to the third party administrator MTD uses on workers' compensation and urged the Board to use the State system.

Jessica Scheeter from Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST) was interested in hearing about the new pass program and expanding transit. She mentioned that one way to fund transit would be to have a set percentage for transit on the reauthorization of Measure D. Ms. Scheeter thanked Chair Britton and Director Rodriguez for attending the meeting regarding the two new proposed bus shelters on Milpas Street.

Steve Musick asked the Board to respond at the next Board meeting to his concerns about the Calle Real property, stating that his purpose was to assist and be helpful.

**7. Honoring Retiring Bus Drivers**

Ms. Fisher and Chair Britton presented retiring bus drivers Linda (Lynn) McMichaels and Ernie Zaragoza with honors for their many years of service to MTD.

**8. Employee Spotlight**

Mechanic Tim Cardona was honored for his outstanding performance under difficult circumstances in the maintenance department.

**9. Transit Friendly Awards**

Community Relations Manager David Damiano presented awards to Ruth O'Donnell and Alfred Alvarez for going out of their way to make transit more viable. Mr. Damiano reported that Transit Friendly Awards would be given out annually.

**10. Easy Lift Presentation**

Bob Westwick, Executive Director of Easy Lift, reported on their service to the frail elder and disabled with transportation. Easy Lift's service is complementary to MTD service - 7 days a week, 18 hours per day on demand from Carpinteria to Winchester Canyon. Mr. Westwick noted that Easy Lift began in 1979, as a project of Easter Seals with 200 rides that year and has grown to serve 750 clients who have no other transportation alternative. The Executive Director noted that the biggest future challenge for Easy Lift would be to manage anticipated growth in strained economic conditions.

**11. Funding Presentation**

Controller Jerry Estrada went over the three major sources of funding: passenger fares and State/Federal operating assistance. Director Fahnestock added that there is no depreciation by MTD for replacement of aging vehicles. Mr. Estrada added that the need to replace buses never ends. Director Moldaver asked that Mr. Estrada present an analysis of the new pass program with projections for a year at the next Board meeting.

**12. Public Meeting Room Policy**

The General Manager noted that MTD is getting requests to use our community room in the evenings and on weekends and this change would facilitate that usage, covering the cost of an employee present. Director Fahnestock moved to accept the proposed change and Director Moldaver seconded it. Director Rodriguez asked that the staff come back with the exact fee to be charged at the next Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**13. General Manager/ Staff Report**

Ms. Fisher reported the Finance Committee advised MTD to continue with the same Workers' Compensation insurance and to apply for an increase to a three million dollar Directors and Officers' Liability Insurance. Director Moldaver moved to accept the recommendations of the staff on insurance renewals and Director Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Interim General Manager requested meetings of the external affairs and facilities committees.

**14. Other Business and Committee Reports**

Director Moldaver reported that the external affairs committee has requested meetings with Carpinteria and the new Mayor of Goleta in an effort to continue the process of reaching out to our partners.

Chair Britton reported that Director Davis has been ill, so the search committee for General Manager was unable to meet.

Chair Britton reported that the Finance Committee met to discuss coordinating schedules with the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC); the Transit Center; budget revisions; regional service and the coastal express; insurance renewals and Easy Lift's location.

Director Moldaver reminded the Board of the upcoming American Public Transportation Association (APTA) conference.

Chair Britton and Director Moldaver complimented the staff and Interim General Manager for the high quality of presentations.

**15. Adjournment**

Director Rodriguez moved to adjourn and Director Moldaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.